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TELEGRAM

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SUBJECT: (U)

ACTION:

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FROM
Amembassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

GDS 4/19/85 (THAYER, Yvonne) OR-P
SHUM AR
Peruvian Embassy on Cespedes Case

Secstate WASHDC

Amembassy LIMA

BUENOS AIRES 3094

REF: State 092426

- entire text.

1. Peruvian Embassy officials on April 17 confirmed to Emboff

the report of the death of Peruvian nationals Rory and Maria

Cespedes Chung in Rosario in December along lines of reftel.

According to these officials, the Peruvian consul in Rosario

sent its Embassy local press clippings of the incident. At

about the same time, unbidden, the Second Army Corps head-

quartered in Rosario informed the Embassy of the death of the

Cespedes pair, explaining they had been killed after firing on

police and that subversive documents and arms were found in

their apartment.

2. In January, the officials said, the Peruvian Embassy sent

a note to the Foreign Ministry asking for a more detailed

explanation of the incident and the return of the young people's

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date ☐ Declassify on Reason

DRAFTED BY:

POL:YThayer:sz

DRAFTING DATE

4/19/79

TEL. EXT.

278

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:

POLCOUNS:WHHallman

CLEARANCES:

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OPTIONAL FORM 153
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January 1975
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personal effects, as requested by their mother. Subsequently, again acting on a request from the family, the Embassy verbally asked the Foreign Ministry to expedite the return of the bodies to Peru. Although the Embassy has not received an official reply either to its note or verbal request to date, the consul in Rosario learned that under Argentine law bodies once interred cannot be exhumed before two years in Rosario (and four years in Buenos Aires, according to the Peruvian consul). The Cespedes family would therefore need authorization from an Argentine federal judge to waive or shorten the exhumation limitation. The Peruvian officials said they had informed their government of this provision and were waiting for further instructions from their Foreign Ministry before taking further steps.

3. The Peruvian diplomats also confirmed having received the assertions of Peruvian roommate denying subversive connections or activities of the Cespedes students. Nevertheless the Peruvian Embassy expresses itself powerless to contradict the official explanation given by the Argentine Second Army Corps. Apparently the Peruvian government did not undertake an independent investigation of the incident nor did it officially protest the death of the Cespedes or treatment of the Peruvian roommate, who has since returned to Peru. The diplomats expressed doubts that the Cespedes' personal effects or a conclusive report on the shooting

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incident would be provided by Argentine authorities and intimated the most they could do is pursue the return of the remains to Peru in accordance with Argentine law. They promised to keep Emboff informed as to further developments.

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